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1 CLAIMS:

2 1. A program-module update system, comprising:
3 a determination unit for determining whether a hardware-specific program
4 module is an updated program module;
5 a source-redirection unit for specifying a source locus for a program
6 module determined to be an updated program module by the determination unit.

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8 2. A system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a list generator for
9 providing a list of hardware-specific program modules, wherein the determination
10 unit determines whether a module listed in such list is an updated module.

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12 3. A system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a program-module
13 copier for copying a hardware-specific program module from the specified source
14 locus to a target locus.

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16 4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the source locus is on a non-
17 removable storage medium.

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19 5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the source locus is on a
20 removable storage medium.

1 6. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the source locus is on a
2 storage medium remotely connected to the program-module update system via a
3 network.

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5 7. A software installation application comprising a program-module
6 update system as recited in claim 1.

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8 8. An operating system update application comprising a program-
9 module update system as recited in claim 1.

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11 9. An operating system comprising a program-module update system
12 as recited in claim 1.

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14 10. A program-module update system, comprising:
15 a source-redirection unit for specifying a source locus for a hardware-
16 specific program module to be copied to a target locus;
17 a program-module copier for copying the program module from the
18 specified source locus to the target locus.

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20 11. A system as recited in claim 10 further comprising a determination
21 unit for determining whether a hardware-specific program module is an updated
22 program module so that the source-redirection unit specifies a locus for modules
23 determined to be an updated module by the determination unit.

1 **12.** A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the source locus is on a
2 non-removable storage medium.
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4 **13.** A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the source locus is on a
5 removable storage medium.
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7 **14.** A system as recited in claim 10, wherein the source locus is on a
8 storage medium remotely connected to the program-module update system via a
9 network.
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11 **15.** A software installation application comprising a program-module
12 update system as recited in claim 10.
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14 **16.** An operating system comprising a program-module update system
15 as recited in claim 10.
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17 **17.** A method of updating a program module, the method comprising:
18 determining whether a hardware-specific program module is an updated
19 program module;
20 specifying a source locus for a program module determined to be an
21 updated program module by the determining.
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1 **18.** A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising:

2 generating a list of hardware-specific program modules;

3 providing such list to the determining.

5 **19.** A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising copying a
6 hardware-specific program module from the source locus specified by the
7 specifying to a target locus.

9 **20.** A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the source locus is on a
10 non-removable storage medium.

12 **21.** A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the source locus is on a
13 removable storage medium.

15 **22.** A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the source locus is on a
16 storage medium remotely connected via a network.

18 **23.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
19 instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs the method as recited in
20 claim 17.

1 **24.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
2 instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform a method of updating
3 program modules, the method comprising:

4 determining whether a hardware-specific program module is an updated
5 program module; and

6 specifying a source locus for a program module determined to be an
7 updated program module by the determining.

8
9 **25.** A modulated signal updating a program module, the modulated
10 signal generated in accordance with the following acts:

11 determining whether a hardware-specific program module is an updated
12 program module; and

13 specifying a source locus for a program module determined to be an
14 updated program module by the determining.

- 1 **26.** A method of updating a program module, comprising:
- 2 obtaining a list of program-module data structures, each data structure
3 being associated with a hardware-specific program module and identifying a
4 source locus where the associated module is stored;
- 5 examining such list;
- 6 determining whether a program module associated with a data structure is
7 an updated program module; and
- 8 modifying the data structure associated with a program module determined
9 to be an updated program module by the determining so that a new source locus is
10 identified in the associated data structure.
- 11
- 12 **27.** A method as recited in claim 26 further comprising copying a
13 hardware-specific program module from the source locus identified in the data
14 structure associated with the program module to a target locus.
- 15
- 16 **28.** A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the source locus identified
17 in a data structure associated with a program module is on a non-removable
18 storage medium.
- 19
- 20 **29.** A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the source locus identified
21 in a data structure associated with a program module is on a removable storage
22 medium.

1 **30.** A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the source locus identified
2 in a data structure associated with a program module is on a storage medium
3 remotely connected via a network.

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5 **31.** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable
6 instructions that, when executed by a computer, performs the method as recited in
7 claim 26.

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